GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:419
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002
COMPULSORY USE OF AGRO PRODUCE
CHANDRA NATH SINGH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had made use of jute bags for foodgrains and sugar packaging in 1987 compulsory;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make compulsory use of other agro produce like cotton, sugarcane etc. on similar lines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): The Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory use in Packing Commodities Act,1987 (JPM Act) was enacted, when jute packaging material started losing its market share to cheaper substitutes like synthetics, thereby affecting jute farming and industry. The Act provides for the compulsory use of jute packaging material in the supply and distribution of certain commodities in the interests of production of raw jute and jute packaging material and of persons engaged in the production thereof and for matters connected therewith. Under the JPM Act, the Government issues notifications from time to time providing forpackaging of various commodities with jute packaging material. The latest order was issued vide S.O. No.853 (E) dated 01.09.2001 making 100% packaging of foodgrains and sugar compulsory in jute bags. This order is valid up to 30.6.2002. At present, there is no such proposal to make compulsory use of jute packaging material for other agro produce like cotton, sugarcane etc. on similar lines.